

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for use in a fluid processing workstation having a plurality of pumps, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of membrane pump cassettes for use respectively with the plurality of pumps, each membrane cassette ~~having~~ comprising:

a first pump chamber at least partially comprising a membrane for pumping fluid under control of its respective pump; and

a first fluid inlet port in selective fluid communication with the first pump chamber wherein fluid enters the first pump chamber when its respective pump applies negative pressure to the first pump chamber membrane;

an inlet tube; and

distribution tubing that connects the inlet tube to the first fluid inlet port of each of the pump cassettes such that the first pump chambers of the pump cassettes can be coupled to pump fluid from a common fluid source via the inlet tube and distribution tubing.

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inlet tube is centrally attached along the distribution tubing and the plurality of membrane pump cassettes are symmetrically attached to the distribution tubing with respect to the inlet tube attachment.

3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the attachments of the plurality of membrane pump cassettes to the distribution tubing are equally spaced apart along the distribution tubing.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of incubation bags, each bag being attached to an outlet port on a respective one of the membrane pump cassettes.

5. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a bar code label on each of the incubation bags.
6. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a break-away closure on the inlet tube.
7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each membrane pump cassette includes a second fluid inlet port with a second fluid inlet tube attached thereto and further including a break-away closure on the second fluid inlet tube.
8. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a four-port coupling inserted in the distribution tubing such that the distribution tubing extends out from first and second oppositely located ports of the coupling, the first fluid inlet tube is connected to a third port of the coupling and the first fluid inlet port of a middle one of the pump cassettes is coupled to a fourth port of the coupling.
9. (Currently Amended) A membrane pump cassette bank comprising:
 an odd number of membrane pump cassettes for use with a plurality of pumps, each membrane pump cassette comprising: having
 a working solution pump chamber at least partially comprising a membrane for pumping working solution under control of a respective pump ; and
 a working solution inlet port selectively coupled to the working solution pump chamber wherein working solution enters the working solution pump chamber when its respective pump applies negative pressure to the first pump chamber membrane;
 a working solution inlet tube; and
 distribution tubing connected between the working solution inlet tube and the working solution inlet ports of the odd number of pump cassettes such that the working solution pump chambers of the membrane pump cassettes can be coupled to pump working solution from a common working solution source via the inlet tube and distribution tubing, wherein the working solution inlet tube joins the distribution tubing proximate to a junction

between the distribution tubing and a middle one of the membrane pump cassettes such that connected to the distribution tubing on either side of the junction are an equal number of the membrane pump cassettes.

10. (Currently Amended) The membrane pump cassette bank of claim 9 wherein the membrane pump cassettes connected to the distribution tubing on one side of the junction are spaced from the junction given distances from the junction and wherein at those given distances the membrane pump cassettes are connected to the distribution tubing on the other side of the junction.

11. (Currently Amended) The pump cassette bank of claim 9 further comprising a plurality of incubation bags, each bag being attached to an outlet port on a respective one of the membrane pump cassettes.

12. (Currently Amended) The membrane pump cassette bank of claim 10 further comprising a bar code label on each of the incubation bags.

13. (Currently Amended) The membrane pump cassette bank of claim 9 further comprising a break-away closure on the working solution inlet tube.

14. (Currently Amended) The membrane pump cassette bank of claim 9 wherein each membrane pump cassette includes a second fluid inlet port with a second fluid inlet tube attached thereto and further including a break-away closure on the second fluid inlet tube.

15. (Currently Amended) The membrane pump cassette bank of claim 9 further comprising a four-port coupling inserted in the distribution tubing such that the distribution tubing extends out from first and second oppositely located ports of the coupling, the working solution inlet tube joins the distribution tubing through a third port of the coupling and the working solution inlet port of a middle one of the pump cassettes is coupled to a fourth port of the coupling to form the junction with the distribution tubing.

16. (Currently Amended) A membrane pump cassette bank comprising:

a plurality of membrane pump cassettes, for use respectively with a plurality of pumps,
each membrane pump cassette ~~having~~ comprising:

a first inlet port and an associated first pump chamber;

a second inlet port and an associated second pump chamber, wherein each of the
first pump chamber and second pump chamber further comprising a membrane for pumping
fluid under control of its respective pump, wherein fluid enters the first and second pump
chamber when its respective pump applies negative pressure to the first pump membrane and the
second pump membrane respectively;

an air vent and associated hydrophobic filter, and

an outlet port;

a working solution inlet tube; and

distribution tubing connected between the working solution inlet tube and the first
inlet ports of each of the plurality of membrane pump cassettes such that the first pump chambers
of the membrane pump cassettes can be coupled to pump working solution from a common
working solution source via the inlet tube and distribution tubing, wherein the working solution
inlet tube is centrally connected to the distribution tubing such that connected to the distribution
tubing on either side of a junction between the distribution tubing and the working solution inlet
tube are an equal number of the membrane pump cassettes.

17. (Currently Amended) The membrane pump cassette bank of claim 16 wherein the membrane
pump cassettes connected to the distribution tubing on one side of the junction are spaced from
the junction given distances from the junction and wherein at those given distances pump
cassettes are connected to the distribution tubing on the other side of the junction.

18. (Currently Amended) The membrane pump cassette bank of claim 16 further comprising a
four-port coupling inserted in the distribution tubing such that the distribution tubing extends out
from first and second oppositely located ports of the coupling, the working solution inlet tube is
connected to a third port of the coupling to form the junction between the
distribution tubing and the working solution inlet tube and the first inlet port of a middle
one of the membrane pump cassettes is coupled to a fourth port of the coupling.

19. (Currently Amended) The membrane pump cassette bank of claim 18 further comprising a plurality of incubation bags, each bag being attached to an outlet port on a respective one of the pump cassettes.

20. (Currently Amended) The membrane pump cassette bank of claim 19 further comprising a bar code label on each of the incubation bags.

21. (Currently Amended) The membrane pump cassette bank of claim 18 further comprising a break-away closure on the working solution inlet tube.

22. (Currently Amended) The membrane pump cassette bank of claim 18 further comprising a second fluid inlet tube attached the second inlet port on each of the pump cassettes and further including a break-away closure on each of the second fluid inlet tubes.

23. (Currently Amended) A kit comprising:

a plurality of membrane pump cassettes, each membrane cassette ~~having~~ comprising:
a first pump chamber comprising a membrane for pumping fluid under control of a respective pump; and
a first fluid inlet port in selective fluid communication with the first pump chamber wherein fluid enters the first pump chamber when its respective pump applies negative pressure to the first pump chamber membrane; and
an inlet tube and associated distribution tubing for connecting the inlet tube to the first fluid inlet port of each of the pump cassettes such that the first pump chambers of the pump cassettes can be coupled to pump fluid from a common fluid source via the inlet tube and distribution tubing.

24. (Original) A kit according to claim 23, further comprising:

a plurality of incubation bags for attachment respectively to an outlet port of each of the pump cassettes.

25. (Original) A kit according to claim 23, further comprising:

a four-port coupling for insertion in the distribution tubing such that the distribution tubing extends out from first and second oppositely located ports of the coupling, the first fluid inlet tube is connected to a third port of the coupling and the first fluid inlet port of a middle one of the pump cassettes is coupled to a fourth port of the coupling.

26. (New) Apparatus for use in a fluid processing workstation the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of membrane cassettes for use respectively with a plurality of pumps, each membrane cassette comprising:

a first pump chamber at least partially comprising a membrane for pumping fluid under control of its respective pump; and

a first fluid inlet port in selective fluid communication with the first pump chamber wherein fluid enters the first pump chamber when its respective pump applies negative pressure to the first pump chamber membrane;

an inlet tube; and

distribution tubing that connects the inlet tube to the first fluid inlet port of each of the pump cassettes such that the first pump chambers of the pump cassettes can be coupled to pump fluid from a common fluid source via the inlet tube and distribution tubing.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising wherein fluid exits the first pump chamber when its respective pump applies positive pressure to the first pump chamber membrane.